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**EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEE
ARRESTED ON CHARGES THAT SHE PROCESSED NUMEROUS
FRAUDULENT DISABILITY CLAIMS**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that AUDREY "STAR" BELL was arrested yesterday in the Los Angeles area on a federal warrant. BELL, 46, of Pacoima, California, was indicted on February 15 by a federal grand jury on a thirteen-count indictment charging her with mail fraud in connection with processing multiple false disability claims. Also indicted were SHARON DENESE HUBBS and TERRI LOUISE ROSS, who obtained fraudulent disability benefits that BELL processed.

This case was investigated by the State of California Employment Development Department (EDD).

The indictment alleges that between October 1996 and December 21, 2006, BELL used her position at EDD to process multiple fraudulent disability claims for friends and others. The fraudulent claims processed by BELL, and filed by HUBBS, ROSS, and others, totaled more than \$145,000.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Matthew Stegman, who is prosecuting the case, if convicted, BELL, HUBBS, and ROSS face a maximum penalty of 20 years imprisonment, and a \$250,000 fine, on each count.

The charges are only allegations and the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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